

**AES Puerto Rico Coal Ash Aggregate Beneficial Reuse Investigation****Issue**

In June 2011, EPA accompanied environmental activist Ms. Ruth Santiago, Esq., representatives of the environmental group ANDA (Asociación Nacional de Derecho Ambiental), and other concerned citizens on visits to eleven sites in Southern Puerto Rico, where aggregate manufactured from ash generated by the AES Guayama coal-fired power plant had been placed on land pursuant to beneficial use determinations issued by the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board. Ms. Santiago, et. al., maintain that such use is damaging to the environment and have requested intervention by EPA.

**Current Status**

During our site visits, the Region observed the AES coal ash aggregate being used as fill material in great amounts over extensive unlined areas, some in proximity to rivers, streams, and wetlands. We subsequently met with the P.R. Department of Health to review their groundwater data, obtained from wells near the aggregate sites (no exceedences observed), and spoke at length with the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, who said they would provide us their aquifer ground water data. We will also obtain and review similar data from the P.R. Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.

**Ex. 7(a)**

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